



SENATE VOTES ON A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROTECT MARRIAGE

Key Themes:

- **Our goal is to protect marriage as the union of a man and a woman.** Marriage is a core social institution facing many threats, including the threat from activist courts seeking to redefine it.
- **The marriage debate should be about safeguarding the best environment for raising children.** Alternative families can lovingly raise kids, but decades of studies show children do best when raised by a married mother and father.
- **The American people must have a voice.** The people through their elected representatives, not unelected judges, should decide the future of marriage.

Why vote on an amendment now?

- When activist courts strike down our marriage laws as “unconstitutional,” the only way to protect marriage is a constitutional amendment.
- Gays and lesbians have a right to live as they choose, but they don’t have a right to redefine marriage.
- This vote is the beginning of an important national debate, and all Senators should go on record for their constituents.



MARRIAGE AMENDMENT VOTE:

Why would you deny homosexuals the right to marry the person of their choosing?

Marriage is the union of a man and a woman. Gays and lesbians have a right to live as they choose, but they don’t have a right to redefine marriage.

Isn’t this an effort to use a divisive issue for election-year politics?

It was the Massachusetts Supreme Court that overturned marriage law in November 2003, forcing the state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples starting on May 17. Congress is responding to ensure that the people have a say about the future of marriage.

Why can’t you wait and let the states decide for themselves?

Activist courts are dictating the timing. Same-sex couples from 46 states have traveled to Massachusetts, California and Oregon to receive marriage licenses and returned to their home states to sue for recognition.

Prepared by the Senate Republican Conference